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**MEMORANDUM CONCERNING CONTROVERSY WITH
CAL TECH SCIENTISTS**

In the hearings before the Senate section of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy on the nomination of John A. McCone to be a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. McCone was questioned concerning a controversy between himself, when he was a trustee at Cal Tech, and a group of Cal Tech scientists on the subject of nuclear testing. The scientists had issued a statement concerning renouncing H-Bomb tests. Mr. McCone took exception to their statement on the ground that it was misleading to the American public and that he felt a group of scientists used their position as professors of distinction at the California Institute of Technology not to express themselves on a particular technical matter but to interject themselves into a political discussion. He did not reject their right to do so, but felt that they should not do it as a group purporting to speak for the university. Mr. McCone felt that, even though they did not say so in their statement, the group was in effect recommending unilateral cessation of tests and used specious arguments to promote their views. On questioning, Mr. McCone stated that he had no objection to ten people joining together to state a policy and that his real objection was to their position on testing and not that they happened to be members of a single university or that they acted as a group. Mr. McCone emphasized that no scientist was fired from Cal Tech on his advice or recommendation.